



New Haven Democracy Fund

"To ensure that all the citizens of New Haven have a fair and meaningful opportunity to participate in the election of mayor."
New Haven Code of General Ordinances, Chapter 2, Article XI, §2-821 • Established in 2007 • democracyfund@newhavenct.net



DEMOCRACY FUND BOARD MEETING

6:15 Wednesday February 20, 2019

New Haven City Hall – 165 Church Street

Second Floor, Mayor's Meeting Room #2

New Haven Democracy Fund Board:

Sergio Rodriguez, Chair

Jack Paulishen

James O'Connell

(Three Seats Vacant)

Democracy Fund Administrator: Alyson Heimer

William Wynn (excused)

AGENDA:

1. Call to Order & Attendance. 6:16 pm. Rodriguez, Paulishen, O'Connell. William Wynn (excused).

2. Approval of Minutes of Prior Meeting, January 2, 2019 motioned by O'Connell accepted. Unanimously approved.

3. Treasurer's Report -

A) Approval of the 2018 Annual Report. O'Connell motioned to move the Annual Report - consider changing the bylaws to reflect a maximum time for reimbursements. Rodriguez called the vote. The 2018 Annual Report is approved.

O'Connell requests that a maximum of 30 days be given to get receipts in for reimbursements unless there are extenuating circumstances.

B) The Fund began the Calendar year with \$224,202.84

Interest Bearing CD \$125,000 Maturity 6/1/2019 1.15%

4. Administrator's Report

A) Candidate contact and questions that have arisen. Gage Frank, campaign manager to Justin Elicker joined the discussion. Board members have asked for a written response from the City Clerk about the eCris online filing system and why it will not be utilized for this municipal election cycle, and the board requests a better understanding on why and how that decision

was made from the City Town Clerk Michael Smart. Administrator Heimer will write a letter on behalf of the Board chair seeking more information.

The ordinance provides the framework for increasing amounts of various components of the contribution and grant process via inflation comparison. Not explicitly listed in the ordinance was the \$30 maximum for in-cash donations. Paulishen motioned to change the maximum cash donation amount from \$25 to \$30 to reflect the other inflation changes that were approved in 2018. . Unanimously approved.

B) Legislative Update

HB 6045 An Act Concerning Election Day and Primary Day Registration would expand same-day registration to allow for Primary registration both to vote and to join a political party holding a primary on that day. Public Hearing was held on Feb 11, 2019.

HB 5815 An Act Extending The Hours Of Election Day Registration - would ensure that anyone waiting in line to vote using the EDR (also known as same day registration) mechanism would be allowed to complete the process and vote if eligible. It would place an election official or an registrar-approved police officer at the end of the line at 8 am to enforce such a rule. This has a lot of New Haven support and may ease the burden of high demand our municipality bore in the past few elections where EDR was active.

5. Report from the Chair

A) 2019 Election Season has commenced and the Board Chair looks forward to an active season.

6. Public Comment

Aaron Goode and Gage Frank were present. Goode was curious if discussions had occurred regarding Wendy Hamilton using the Fund. According to Mae in the City Clerk's office as of today Hamilton has not filed any official papers stating her intention to run for Mayor.

7. New Business

Feb 28th public hearing on fixing the voting process in New Haven, will be Chaired by Sal Decola.

James O'Connell will be attending the state election moderator training in Early March. O'Connell will report back on that training to the Board.

Paulishen motioned to adjourn at 7:09 pm. Unanimously approved.